

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Maine

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Maine

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 1,253,040 (1999 estimate); 1,227,928 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (1990): 98% white; 0.4% African American; 0.5% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut; 0.5% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.6% Hispanic

Politics²

- Governor: Angus S. King, Jr.
- Attorney General: Andrew Ketterer
- Secretary of State: Dan A. Gwadosky
- U.S. Senate: Olympia Snowe (R); Susan Collins (R)
- U.S. Representatives: Thomas H. Allen; John Elias Baldacci

Programs/Initiatives

- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):³
 - \$100,000 to River Coalition, Inc. of Old Town
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed (EOWS)⁴
 - Midcoast (Sagadahoc): This area received its first Weed and Seed grant in 1996. The Target Area of this Weed and Seed site is the county of Sagadahoc. According to the 1990 Census, this area's population totaled 33,535. This area is a leader in community policing efforts throughout the State of Maine. One of the main efforts of this Weed and Seed site is to target properties that have a high incidence of complaints/arrests that appear to be drug-related.
 - There are additional Weed and Seed sites in Androscoggin County and Augusta.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁵

The New England HIDTA was designated in 1999 and is responsible for numerous counties in 6 states including Cumberland County of Maine. This HIDTA was designated in part because of the high purity heroin found throughout New England and the criminal groups trafficking heroin and crack from New York to New England. The primary mission of this HIDTA is to target, investigate and prosecute violent criminal offenders, especially those from NY, responsible for the distribution of high purity heroin, cocaine, and crack.
- Drug Court Program Office⁶
 - There has been one recently implemented Tribal drug court in Old Town.
 - There are also three drug courts being planned in Maine. One will be in Portland, Cumberland County, another will be in Princeton/Passamaquoddy (Tribal), and the third is planned to be in Alfred, York County (Tribal).

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1998, crime in Maine decreased 1.7% over the previous year. During 1997, there was an 8.7% drop in crime. This results in a 10.4% decrease in crime in the past two years in Maine.⁷
- There were 650 juveniles arrested in 1998 for drug abuse violations in Maine.⁸

Arrests in Maine, 1998

Offense	Number of Arrests	
	Juvenile	Adult
Murder/Non-neg. Manslaughter	--	9
Forcible Rape	15	69
Robbery	34	144
Aggravated Assault	114	618
Burglary	814	1,593
Larceny-theft	2,907	6,274
Motor Vehicle Theft	202	430
Other Assaults	1,196	6,684
Drug Abuse Violations	650	4,359
Driving Under the Influence	146	7,718
Liquor Laws	804	3,075

- Of the 4,196 total drug arrests in Maine in 1997, 3,631 of those arrested were males and 565 were females.
- 74.3% of all adult drug arrests in 1997 involved possession violations, and 25.7% were for the sale or manufacturing of drugs.⁹

Adult Drug Arrests, by Age, 1997

Age	Sale/Manu- facturing	Possession	Total
18	56	327	383
19	52	288	340
20	32	203	235
21-29	310	923	1,233
30-39	265	596	861
40-49	155	229	384
50-59	26	23	49
60 and over	4	7	11
Total Adult Arrests	900	2,596	3,496
Percent of Total	25.7%	74.3%	100.0%

- Of those adult arrests for drug possession in 1997, the majority (83.3%) involved marijuana. For juveniles arrested for possession, 87.6% of these arrests involved marijuana.¹⁰
- In 1997, 88.9% of all juvenile drug arrests in Maine involved possession violations, while 11.1% were for the sale or manufacturing of drugs.¹¹

Juvenile Drug Arrests, by Age, 1997

Age	Sale/Manu- facturing	Possession	Total
Under 10	--	1	1
11-12	2	9	11
13-14	17	76	93
15	8	97	105
16	17	174	191
17	34	265	299
Total Juvenile Arrests	78	622	700
Percent of Total	11.1%	88.9%	100.0%

- In a survey conducted of Maine's law enforcement officials and prosecutors, 78.13% reported that they believe illicit drug use is getting worse in their jurisdictions.¹²

Law Enforcement/Prosecutor Opinions Regarding Certain Crime Situations

Type of Crime	Getting Worse	Staying Same	Improving
Illicit Drug Dealing	62.50%	34.38%	3.13%
Illicit Drug Use	78.13%	15.63%	6.25%
Juvenile Crime	78.13%	18.75%	3.13%
Juvenile Violence	65.63%	28.13%	6.25%
Violence in General	28.13%	59.38%	12.50%

Drugs

- Remote rural communities make up most of Maine towns. These rural areas are ideal for the undetected manufacture, cultivation, and transportation of illicit drugs. Also, Maine has approximately 3,500 miles of coastline with numerous deep-water harbors and more than 2,000 coastal islands. In addition to this, Maine has a common border with Canada that runs for 591 miles and has numerous unguarded border crossings. All of these factors contribute to the drug problem in this state.¹³
- Marijuana is readily available in Maine. In November 1999, voters in Maine passed a referendum approving the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Under this legislation, marijuana can be possessed and used for certain medical conditions when doctors advise patients that the drug might benefit them. The list of qualifying medical conditions includes the following: loss of appetite from AIDS or cancer treatments, glaucoma, and seizures or muscle spasms from chronic diseases.¹⁴
- Cocaine, crack cocaine, and heroin are all readily available throughout Maine.¹⁵

Juveniles

- 55% of Maine's 12th graders surveyed in 1997 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes. 33% of students this age reported using marijuana in the 30 days prior to being surveyed.¹⁶
- 62% of Maine students in grades 6-12 reported that if they wanted to get marijuana it would be "sort of easy" or "very easy."¹⁷
- 46% of all 9-12th graders surveyed reported that by age 13 they had already tried marijuana.¹⁸

- 25% of Maine 8th graders surveyed reported lifetime inhalant use.¹⁹
- 50.7% of all high school students surveyed in Maine in 1997 had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²⁰

Percent of Maine High School Students Reporting Drug Use, 1997

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	48.4	52.8	50.7
Current Marijuana Use (2)	27.3	33.2	30.4
Lifetime Cocaine Use	7.0	9.7	8.5
Current Cocaine Use	2.8	3.6	3.2
Lifetime Crack or Free-base Use	NA	NA	NA
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.6	7.2	4.9
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	2.0	3.6	2.8
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs (4)	19.0	21.5	20.4
Lifetime Use of Inhalants	18.3	20.4	19.3

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life
2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey
3. Used a needle to inject drugs
4. Other Drugs include LSD, PCP, MDMA, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Mushrooms

Trafficking and Seizures

- As of May 1997, marijuana accounted for 92% of the drugs eradicated in Maine. Heroin accounted for 4%, cocaine for 3%, and crack accounted for 1%.²¹
- Under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in Maine during 1998, there were a total of 10,681 marijuana plants eradicated.²²

Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Maine, 1998

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
<u>Plots Eradicated</u>	<u>Cultivated Plants Eradicated</u>	<u>Grows Seized</u>	<u>Plants Eradicated</u>	
198	5,706	37	4,975	10,681

Enforcement

- As of October 1998, there were 2,790 full-time law enforcement employees in Maine.²³

Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, Maine, 1998

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Civilians</u>		Total Employees
Male	Female	Male	Female	
2,001	116	316	357	2,790

- Northeast New England HIDTA Task Force: This Task Force, located in Portland, Maine, targets criminal groups trafficking heroin and cocaine.²⁴

- Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)²⁵
This Department of Public Safety bureau was created in 1987. The MDEA is a multi-jurisdictional task force that maintains offices in Augusta, Bangor, Houlton, Lewiston, Lyman, and Portland.

Courts²⁶

- During FY98, 35.9% of the total Federal convictions in Maine were for drug offenses. The majority of these (36.5%) involved powder cocaine.
- 94.1% of those convicted of drug trafficking received a prison sentence.

Corrections

- At advance yearend 1998, there were 1,612 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Maine.²⁷
- Maine Correctional Facilities (Adult):²⁸
 - Maine State Prison, Thomastown: This prison for males has a capacity of 438. The Substance Abuse Department found within this facility provides the following services: individual counseling; group counseling; education; and sponsorship.
 - Maine Correctional Institution-Warren, Thomastown: This 100-bed maximum-security facility had a population of 90 inmates in August of 1999.
 - Bolduc Correctional Facility, Thomastown: This facility, which has a capacity of 175, offers substance abuse counseling as well as self-help programs to its inmates.
 - Maine Correctional Center, South Windham: As of September 1999, this facility had a population of 495 males and 27 females.
 - Charleston Correctional Facility, Charleston: This minimum-security facility housed 129 males and 30 females at one point in 1999.
 - Downeast Correctional Facility, Machiasport: The November 1999 population of this facility was 148 adult males.
- Maine Juvenile Facilities:²⁹
 - Maine Youth Center, South Portland: This facility, which houses both males and females, is Maine's only juvenile facility. In September of 1999, the population at this facility was 193 males and 18 females.
 - Northern Maine Juvenile Detention Facility, Charleston: This facility, which was constructed in 1996, is the primary facility for the detention of juvenile offenders accused of committing juvenile offenses pending court action. This facility opened in 1998 and has a capacity to house 40 juveniles (male and female) between the ages of 11 and 18.
- From the beginning of 1998 to the end of 1998, the number of adults on probation decreased 3.1%. The number of adults on probation at the end of the year totaled 6,953.³⁰
- The number of adults on parole during this time also decreased. There were 65 adults on parole in Maine at the end of 1998.³¹

Treatment³²

- During 1997 there were 10,607 people admitted into treatment in Maine. 26.6% of those admitted were females and 10.1% of those admitted were youths (under 20).
- 67.5% of those admitted to treatment had been arrested at least once during the 12 months prior to admission. 37.6% had been arrested for drug-related offenses.
- 65.0% of those admitted were reported as having a prior treatment episode.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Maine Web site: <http://www.state.me.us>

³ Drug-Free Communities Grantees:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>

⁴ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁵ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

⁶ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, American University: *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

⁷ Maine Department of Public Safety: <http://janus.state.me.us/dps/press/CRIME98.htm>

⁸ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports*, 1998, October 1999:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius>

⁹ Maine Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Maine 1997*

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Maine Department of Public Safety, *Maine Drug Control, Violence Prevention and System Improvement Strategy 1997-1999*

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ On-line News Article, November 4, 1999

¹⁵ Maine Department of Public Safety, *Maine Drug Control, Violence Prevention and System Improvement Strategy 1997-1999*

¹⁶ Maine Office of Substance Abuse, *Fact Sheet: Marijuana Use in Maine, 1997*:

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<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

²⁵ Maine Department of Public Safety, MDEA Web site: <http://janus.state.me.us/dps/Mdea/homepage.htm>

²⁶ U.S. Sentencing Commission, 1998 Federal Statistics: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/me98.pdf>

²⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1998*, August 1999:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p98.htm>

²⁸ Maine Department of Corrections Web site: <http://janus.state.me.us/corrections/>

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*, August 1999:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus98.htm>

³¹ Ibid.

³² Maine Office of Substance Abuse, <http://www.state.me.us/dmhmrso/osa/hilite97.htm>

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